

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-14 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-22 are presently active in this case, Claims 1-14 canceled and the specification amended by way of the present preliminary amendment.

The present application is a divisional application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C §120 to, Serial No. 09/492,272 ("the parent application").

The present preliminary amendment amends the specification to incorporate the parent application by reference as suggested by The Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure.¹ In addition, the preliminary amendment amends the claims to cancel Claims 1-14, which were elected for prosecution in the parent application.

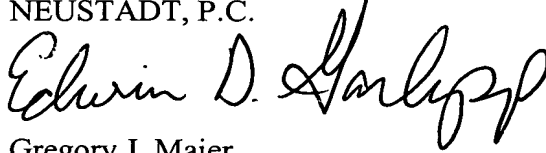
Finally, Applicants wish to note that since the present application is a Divisional application under 35 U.S.C. §121, pursuant to that section, a patent issuing on the parent application shall not be used as a reference in the Patent and Trademark Office against the claims of this application.²

¹See M.P.E.P. §201.06(c) Incorporation By Reference.

²See 35 U.S.C. §121 and M.P.E.P. §804.01.

Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 15-22 is believed to be in order,
and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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